

BARG Newsletter

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. #6953T
March 2024 Monthly Newsletter

There will be no General Meeting for
March 2024

Next Meeting General BARG inc
11:00am, Saturday 27th of April 2024

At the Airport - All Welcome



Contacting us
BARG@BARG.ORG.AU
We're on the web.
www.barg.org.au
https://twitter.com/vk3_barg

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/VK3BML/>



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Times and dates of nets as below

Club Nets: VHF NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8 pm on 146.750 MHz - VK3RBA

HF NET: Every Thursday Night at 8 pm on 3.608 MHz - VK3BML

6m NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8:30 pm on 53.650Mhz RX / 52.650Mhz TX - FM
with a 91.5 tone - VK3RWU

LINKED REPEATERS: *The local VK3RBA-70cm repeater on Mt Buninyong is part of a network of linked repeaters covering North-Western Victoria.*

Access details for this repeater have recently changed.

For full details of this linked network and access details see <https://www.grz.com/lookup/vk3rba>

You can listen to the system live <http://vk3rba.dyndns.org:441/>

This linked system may be accessed via IRLP node 9503.





President's Report March 2024



I really wanted to have a soap box moment this month but have decided I may leave it until next month now as it needs refining and had already made my report 3 pages long. But I will just say this. Think before sending email as you may regret it and it is no wonder Amateur Radio is in the state it is in if you always do that to newcomers to the hobby. It borders on bullying. For those who don't know what I am talking about be glad you don't. Hurt ego and forgetfulness play a big part in why this happened.

Now down to business:

Thanks to those who came out to the John Moyle Field Day at Birdwood Park in Buninyong on the 16th of March. Thanks, should also go to Mal for organising it this time. There should be some pictures and maybe a report in this newsletter.



We welcome 2 new members to the club this month VK3FQDX Brad and someone a lot of people already know VK3LTA Trevor.

Green Hill the site of the club repeater and beacons. I received a message from one of our club members that Sectrol who have been paying for the power at about \$200 per quarter were going to have the power disconnected very soon and this would have left us without the repeater or the single beacon that is still running on I think it is 23cm. I was too busy to even look at it fully when I got the message and put it out in email to committee. Thanks to Peter VK3APW who understood what I wanted and contacted Sectrol and worked out that they will pass the power bill onto us for now. While we work out what we do. Note this was after I had to email 3 times to try and get some committee members to stop with "Oh Ben will do that" read your emails in full before responding next time.

Planning is still ongoing with Hamvention for 2025. Any ideas are most welcome you can email them to me directly vk3nrd@gmail.com.

Committee at the March Committee meeting approved the purchase of a new radio for use at the clubrooms and when we go portable for field days like the John Moyle Field Day. It could also be used for contests that we could activate the club callsign from the clubrooms Remembrance Day, Oceania DX, VK Shires etc. With the installation of the End Fed Dipole this is relatively easy to do now. 1 Bunnings BBQ would really pay for 1 radio with what we earn on average.

The 24th of August will be the AGM date this year and an official notification will go out in June/July for it.

If there is any member who has copies of our lease agreements with the Council no matter how old, can you please get them to me by email if they have been scanned or if they are paper copy then you can drop in and see me on a Friday between 9 and 12 pm at Voice FM level 1, 25 – 39 Barkly St Ballarat East and I can make a copy of it and add it to our document archive for future reference.

On the project bench here in the shack is a level converter for a CAT cable. I am after a bit of help from any member who has some experience in circuit board design, I need someone to review the PCB design and give feedback if possible once I have the initial design done. Using strip board or Veroboard has not been a good option for me as I normally make a complete mess of things or things do not work. My last digital audio interface was like this and has its own quirks now due the cheap Veroboard splitting on me. There will be a newsletter article for this as the writing has already begun.

73's Ben VK3NRD

The Next BARG General Meeting **11:00am, Saturday 27th of April 2024**

The Next BARG Construction Day **1:00pm, Saturday 6th of April 2024**

BARG inc. OFFICE BEARERS

President	Ben Daniel VK3NRD	Ordinary Member	Tom George VK3DMK
Vice President	Colin Consiglio VK3NCC	Ordinary Member	Ian Fairweather VK3YFD
Secretary	Peter Westgarth VK3APW	Ordinary Member	Doug Ellery VK3DRE
Treasurer	Chris Huggins VK3QY	Ordinary Member	David Martin VK3KQT
Ordinary Member	Craig Cook VK3KG	Ordinary Member	Mal White VK3OAK
Ordinary Member	Lachlan Macdonald VK3ALM		

I told my physical therapist that I broke my arm in two (2) places. He told me to stop going to those places.

I put our scale in the bathroom corner and that's where the little liar will stay until it apologizes.

I hate it when people act all intellectual and talk about Mozart when they've never even seen one of his paintings.

Never trust an electrician with no eyebrows.

My neighbour knocked on my front door at 3 a.m. 3AM!!! Luckily, I was already up playing the bagpipes.

BARG Coffee **Mornings**

Come out for a chat, coffee, snack, and solve the world's problems
all in a morning.



Every Thursday at 10 am
Food Seduction on Doveton
524 Doveton St Nth
Soldiers Hill

(The old Gove Bike Shop)

The combination 'ough' can be pronounced in nine ways.

This sentence contains them all.

A rough-coated dough-faced thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of
Scarborough, after falling into a slough he coughed and hiccoughed.

From Reg VK3CAZ (SK) Archive, thanks Craig VK3KG.

Scenes from the BARG, John Moyle Field Day 2024

Callsign VK3BML

Number of Contacts

Band	Points	Contacts
40 m	120	60
20m	76	38
6 m	6	3
	202	101

Section Multiple Operator – Six Hours
 Location Buninyong, Victoria
 Locator QF12wi

Participants – VK3BML

Malcolm	White	VK3OAK
Bob	Pitcher	VK3NBV
Bob	Terrill	VK3BNC
Gordon	Cornell	VK3FGC
Tom	George	VK3DMK
Ian	Fairweather	VK3YFD
Ben	Daniel	VK3NRD

Equipment Used FT-857 & IC-7300
 Battery
 80OCF & Inverted V dipole



19th February 2024 - a landmark day for Amateur Radio in Australia

Feb 19th 2024 was a significant date for Amateur Radio in Australia.

It marked the transition to the Amateur Radio Class Licence for individual operators (away from Apparatus Licencing).

It also was the date that the ACMA assumed full control and coordination for qualification assessment. The subsequent issuing of Amateur Radio Recognition Certificates (previously AOCP(x)) and callsign allocation also commenced on this date.

The transition was seamless and I feel it has been a very well managed transition on the ACMA's part.

The ACMA has created a web page that is very well designed and is a single "one stop shop".

It has clear concise information that supports all Amateur operators, aspiring, new and old.

I strongly recommend individuals take a visit.

You can find it here:

<https://www.acma.gov.au/amateur-radio>



Amateur radio

Amateur radio operators must be qualified, and follow licence conditions and the operating procedures.



The amateur class licence commenced on 19 February 2024. Find out about the class licence, accredited assessors, and revised qualification and call sign arrangements.

Amateur operators can view their qualification and call signs on [ACMA Assist](#).

Get your notices faster by email. To switch, contact us at info@acma.gov.au.

Have you signed up for our [amateur radio newsletter](#)? Get the latest ACMA news straight to your in-box.

Note: Individual AR callsigns associated with apparatus licences are slowly being removed from the RRL. This is occurring as apparatus licences expire or being surrendered. The only publicly available information on callsigns availability and allocation is here: <https://www.acma.gov.au/call-signs>

73, Colin VK3NCC

BARG Members Club Dining Events.

There are two monthly social events planned.

The ladies' morning coffee is planned for the first Tuesday morning of each month at 10:00am at **Live it Up.**

Greenhill Enterprise Centre, University Drive, Mt Helen

The dining day/night event is planned to be held on the 3rd Friday of each month at locations to be announced.

Daytime events will occur during daylight savings months and then change to night time when daylight savings ends.

Notices will be sent out as a reminder to get numbers etc prior to booking each dinner.

Cheers. Ian VK3AXH



VK3PWG & VK3OAK Overseas DX'pedition



Last month I shared that VK3OAK (Mal) and VK3PWG (Pete) were heading away on an overseas dxpedition to King Island. I'm pleased to be able to report that the trip went very well.

We were fortunate to have really good weather for the whole week, allowing a smooth flight down and back. The car we'd booked was waiting for us on arrival so after a quick trip to the supermarket we located the accommodation that we'd booked on the opposite side of the island, allowing an opportunity to sort out the gear.

From then on most of the time was spent either driving to new parks or actually activating the parks.



We started by heading down to the deep south, driving almost to the southern tip of the island, and seeing the first of the four light houses that warn passing ships.

Tuesday, we headed to the far north where we met a couple who'd paddled kayaks from Melbourne, around Flinders Island, down to Tassie and were now making their way back to Melbourne.



Wednesday, we headed the advice to head west and Thursday was the mystical east coast.

On Thursday evening we managed to jury rig an 80m antenna allowing us to join the clubs 80m net.

There are 15 parks and 1 SOTA summit on the island. We had the ambitious goal of getting at least 10 contacts from each of the parks and 4 for the SOTA summit.

We did manage 10 contacts from 14 parks, with 44 from 4 of those. Overall, there was 420 QSO's, plus the club net.

Sadly, scaling the SOTA summit would have required an hour of bush bashing which we elected to skip. And one of the parks was on private property where we were unable to contact the owner.



Thank-you to club members VK3ALM, VK3NBV, VK3BNC, VK3NRD, VK3AXH, VK3DAE, VK3VMM and VK3YFD who responded to our calls. And also, to VK3BML.

Where should we go next?

73 Mal & Pete.

Amateur Radio Victoria Foundation License Course

AR Victoria is looking for starters for a Foundation Course over three nights April 15/22/29 between 7 and 9 pm.



Also, an Advanced Course starting Monday 13th May for 16 weeks 7-9 PM. Foundation call sign holders or anyone entering for the Standard level can enroll.

Both courses will be run online using 'Zoom' and is ideal for country members to participate.

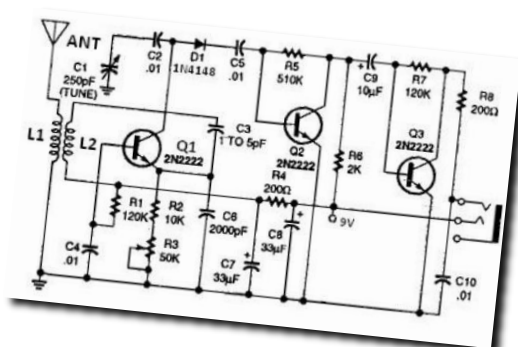
Bookings will be available shortly in the online shop at.

<https://shop.amateurradio.com.au/>

\$60.00 for Foundation and \$150 for Advanced.

An assessment service is offered afterwards.

Courses will be run by Peter Cossins VK3BFG.



From The BARG Archives, Henry VK3DXC (SK)



THE ADVENTURES OF NORMAN B. GODDHAM. THE QRM VS. QRN INCIDENT

International Amateur Radio Day 2024



Every April 18, radio amateurs worldwide take to the airwaves in celebration of World Amateur Radio Day. It was on this day in 1925 that the International Amateur Radio Union was formed in Paris.

Amateur Radio experimenters were the first to discover that the short wave spectrum — far from being a wasteland — could support worldwide propagation. In the rush to use these shorter wavelengths, Amateur Radio was “in grave danger of being pushed aside,” the IARU’s history has noted. Amateur Radio pioneers met in Paris in 1925 and created the IARU to support Amateur Radio worldwide.

Just two years later, at the International Radiotelegraph Conference, Amateur Radio gained the allocations still recognized today — 160, 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters. Since its founding, the IARU has worked tirelessly to defend and expand the frequency allocations for Amateur Radio.

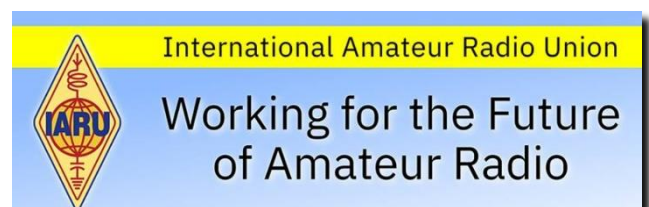
Thanks to the support of enlightened administrations in every part of the globe, radio amateurs are now able to experiment and communicate in frequency bands strategically located throughout the radio spectrum.

From the 25 countries that formed the IARU in 1925, the IARU has grown to include 160 member-societies in three regions. IARU Region 1 includes Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Northern Asia. Region 2 covers the Americas, and Region 3 is comprised of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific island nations, and most of Asia.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has recognized the IARU as representing the interests of Amateur Radio.

The theme for 2024 is "A Century of Connections: Celebrating 100 years of Amateur Radio Innovation, Community, and Advocacy"

<http://www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day>



IOTA / WWFF ACTIVATION



FLINDERS ISLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 2024

VK5FIL

14th April 2024 - 21st April 2024

Islands On The Air (IOTA)

Flinders Island OC-261

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) Investigator Important Bird Area VKFF-0175

Operators:-



Grant VK5GR



Adam VK2YK



Chris VK5FR



Ivan VK5HS



Andy VK5LA



Paul VK5PAS

Calling our team from OC/SA/AF.

The team has agreed that if you are located in Oceania, South America, or Africa, we will accept your call at any time, regardless of which specific region we are calling.

For information on modes and frequencies

<https://www.vk5fil.com/>

Wimmera Amateur Radio Group John Moyle Activation

Contributor Robert VK3ARM

Wimmera Amateur Radio Group VK3III

I spent a day at One Tree Hill near Ararat yesterday with members of the Horsham group who took part in the eight-hour segment of the John Moyle.

Present during the day were David VK3GP, James VK3JBM, Grahame VK3EMU, Hans VK3HBS with his wife Sandy VK3SMG.

Also, there was James VK3JFR, a year 12 student and new Amateur Radio Operator who was ably assisted to gain his licence by Colin VK3NCC. Young James was put on the microphone during the afternoon and did an excellent job of handling a 40 metre pile up. I think he is now well and truly hooked.

We made successful contact with members of BARG during the day. Other contacts included a small number of good ones all the way to 23cm.

Good weather and decent band conditions made for an excellent activation, helped by Hans who provided Bunnings style sausages, cooked on his portable barbecue.



David VK3GP's Beams.
Armstrong Rotator



James VK3JBM on the mic with
Grahame VK3EMU in the background.



Beam antennas (6, 2, 70 and 23)



James VK3JBM on the mic with David
VK3GP relaxing.

Would You Have a Backyard Big enough for this HF Antenna?

The town of Monticello, USA is the home to one of the largest short wave radio stations in the world, according to those involved.



WBCQ Radio is an international shortwave broadcasting station located in Monticello, Maine. This state-of-the-art transmitting station utilizes an Ampegon rotatable array antenna that is 260' tall, with a 500kW Continental transmitter. All of this broadcasting power requires reliable power, especially in the northern Maine winter conditions.

The antenna consists of low- and high-band array antennas, positioned back-to-back, each equipped with a reflector screen, allowing WBCQ to access all shortwave frequency bands between 6 MHz and 26 MHz.

The system is the first rotatable shortwave high-power array antenna on the North American continent and designed for the transmission of shortwave signals of up to 500 kW.

The antenna is transmitting on 9,330 kHz with 150 kW transmission power. The programs are broadcasted in various languages for target areas in North-, South-, Central America, Europe, Asia, and Oceania.



<https://cestron.de/News>

WIA Convention 2024 – Bundaberg QLD

An Invitation from the Bundaberg Amateur Radio Club and David, VK4DN



Giddy!

I'm David VK4DN from the Bundaberg Amateur Radio Club – We are hosting the WIA Convention and Expo/Hamfest here in Bundaberg on May 4th / 5th in 2024.

It is the biggest event in the calendar year for Amateur Radio in Australia! Our members are thrilled to be hosting the event and we would like to extend a warm welcome to your club and members to attend the event.

The weekend includes the WIA AGM, several keynote presentations by guest speakers / a Commercial Expo and Hamfest / Field Day. A gala dinner and lots of other activities! We have even managed to secure a contact with the ISS on Saturday evening with a local high school – (The kids will be able to talk with an astronaut on the space station!)

We are also seeking guest speakers for the event with several slots available – If any member of your club would be interested in doing a talk about something they are passionate about (preferably related to Amateur Radio!)

It should be a very interesting weekend and an opportunity for amateurs from all over Australia to gather and network with other people interested in the hobby. If you could please forward this email to your members, and discuss at the next meeting, it would be much appreciated! secretary@barc.asn.au

If you guys have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to make contact with me!

Should any of your members like to book a table for the Hamfest or give a talk, please ask them to make contact as well.

If you're planning to attend, make sure you book your accommodation soon.

Bundaberg is an RV-Friendly Town and there are plenty of camping areas available if you are coming with your motorhome or caravan.

If you are flying into Bundaberg, mini bus shuttles will meet you at the airport and take you to your accommodation and to and from the venue over the weekend.

Mark the date in your calendar! May 4th and 5th 2024

Kind regards,
David VK4DN
Secretary – Bundaberg ARC.
secretary@barc.asn.au
Ph: 0410 121 345





OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

48th ANNUAL FIELD DAY

Saturday and Sunday the 8th & 9th of June 2024



TRASH & TREASURE

TRADE DISPLAYS

FOX HUNTS (Saturday and Sunday)

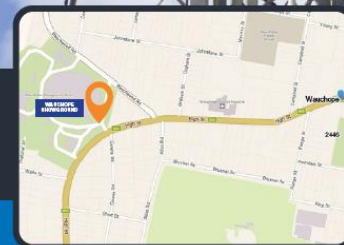
HOME BREW COMPETITION

FREE COFFEE, TEA & BISCUITS

www.orarc.org | Talk-in frequency 146.700 MHz (91.5 Hz CTCSS) Station Callsign VK2BOR

\$5 ENTRY | WAUCHOPE SHOWGROUND HALL
Field Day Dinner - Saturday 8th PORT MACQUARIE GOLF CLUB

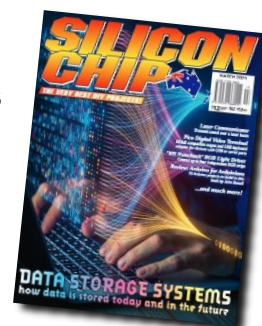
Contact: **HENRY LUNDELL VK2ZHE** email: vk2zhe@orarc.org



Magazine Reviews

Silicon Chip March 2024 Review

- P16 Data Storage Systems. Part 2. Starts with Hard Drive technologies from the large “platters” to SSD and all sorts of formats in between. It charts the scale of memory density during that period and the many manufacturers who produced these very important items of computer topology and how the technology works.
- P30 Build your own Laser Communicator. A great learning project using basic components to establish a small laser transmitter and receiver with speaker output.
- P45 Raspberry Pi Pico Digital Video Terminal. Part 1. Project allows you to communicate with and control a Micromite, PicoMite or WebMite with modern easily obtainable equipment such as USB keyboards and HDMI displays. Has various configurable output formats with a modular design format making a simple and uncluttered PCB to interconnect three Pi Pico controllers. Gives descriptions to the various data and video formats.
- P56 Electromechanical Noughts & Crosses Machine. A modern version of a design described by Dick Smith, using just relays, LEDs and diodes with a mechanical sequencer and stepper switches. A discussion on how it works and diagrams on construction.



- P66 Wii Nunchuk RGB Light Driver. An RGB light strip controller using a controller handpiece used with Wii game consoles. Using an ATmega32U4 microcontroller and XBEE 3 RF Module if you would like wireless connectivity.
- P77 Mains Power-Up Sequencer. Part 2. Covers the connection and setup of the project on its PCB and enclosure.
- P88 Circuit Notebook. Arduino based water pump monitor, Battery Lifesaver with load control, Ultra-low-power carbon monoxide (CO) monitor.
- P92 Vintage Radio. The Bush MB60 portable radio. A five valve portable radio, introduced in 1957, a medium and long wave receiver with ferrite stick antenna.
- P98 Serviceman's Log. Pre Amp, Start Capacitor, woofer, and TV antenna repairs.

DIYODE

Unfortunately, DIYODE magazine has ceased production.

Back Copies of BARG inc. Newsletters

There are available on the BARG website scanned copies of old BARG Newsletters.
<https://www.barg.org.au/>

Colin VK3NCC with the copies supplied by Craig VK3KG has been scanning them and adding to the collection on the website.
 Great job....



Are you doing anything interesting with your shack?
Are you going anywhere to operate your radio gear?
Have you or are you building something that would be of interest to the Newsletter readers?
Then think about writing about it for your Newsletter.
Very easy to do, ask those that have done it.

Text can be sent in Word or text or other formats, images sent separately, jpg, png, even pdf.

Send to Tom VK3DMK Newsletter Editor

tomvk3dmk@gmail.com